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News in brief

Lenossi recognized for service

Longtime school board trustee Betty Lenossi stepped into retirement last week at the Romulus Community School Board meeting with a resolution in hand. The board awarded Lenossi, a four-term board member, with the resolution in recognition of 12 years of service to Romulus students. Lenossi, a bus driver who retired from the district only to be elected to the board a short time later, declined to run for her seat when it came up for election. She was replaced on the board by Danielle Funderburg, who was elected in May. Lenossi served as president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary of the board during her tenure. She was considered to be one of the most visible board members of those who are currently serving, according to the resolution.

Teachers, support staff recalled

Attrition and retirement has led to the Romulus School District calling several teachers back to work for the next school year beginning in September. Three high school teachers, two middle school teachers and two elementary school teachers were recalled after school board members voted to return the teachers to the payroll. The teachers were pink-slipped in accordance to union rules in expectation that school revenues might be reduced. The current contract between the district and teachers union specifies the district must give notice to teacher whom ace a layoff for any reason. Also during the meeting, the board approved the hiring of Linda Poirier as the assistant principal at Romulus High School.

Roof repairs approved

Damaged roofs at Romulus High School and Romulus Middle School will be repaired this summer, when students are not in the building. Romulus School Board members voted to award Single Ply International a contract to perform emergency repairs at both buildings after administrators discovered damage. At Romulus High, 17,442 square feet of roof surface will be replaced or repaired at a cost of $47,950. At the middle school, 19,380 square feet will also be repaired or replaced. The funds will be paid from the district general fund.

New book expenditures approved

Students attending district facilities will have some new books and supplies from which to learn. The Romulus School Board approved the purchase of textbooks and science kits at the cost of $46,823.49 and $190,704.45, respectively. The new books cover topics such as conceptual physics, geometry, world history, United States history, eastern history and western history.

— News briefs are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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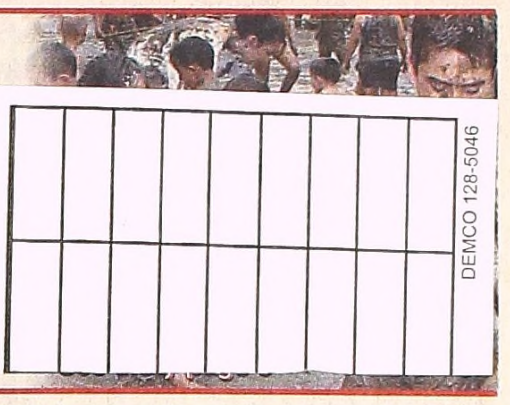

Officials stunned by casino rejection

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

When the votes were counted last Wednesday, city officials in Romulus were stunned.

On June 25, the U.S. House of Representatives defeated a measure that would have paved the way for two Indian casinos to open in Port Huron and either Romulus or Flint on non-reservation land.

Had it been approved, the bill would have settled a land claim for 110 acres of land that two tribes – the Bay Mills Indian Community and the Sault Ste. Marie tribe of Chippewa Indians – say would have made amends for a piece of land in the Upper Peninsula that was taken by the state of Michigan illegally.

The defeat of the bill – the final vote was 298-121 – came as a surprise to city officials hoping to bring further development and jobs to Romulus, who were optimistic the vote would be a close victory.

"To say I was surprised is an understatement," said Mayor Alan Lambert, the driving force behind the 2003 approval of a city proposal that allowed gaming in the city.

"We were told by Congressman (John) Dingell's office that the vote would be close," he said. "That it ended up such a big disparity was also a surprise to us."

What went wrong

What is a loss to Romulus and Port Huron was a big win for Detroit. Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick and Congressman John Conyers were bitterly opposed to the bill because a casino in Romulus could siphon business from the three Detroit gaming houses.

The city depends on a dedicated revenue stream from the casinos.

Lambert said the forces lining up against the proposal were given an inordinate amount of time to shore up opposition.

"The Speaker of the House (Nancy Pelosi) kept giving more and more time . . . . I think that gave the other side a chance to build opposition," he said.

Lambert said that after the vote occurred, Dingell called to apologize.

"He said he thought we had the support," he said.

In a statement, Dingell blasted those who voted against the bill.

"At a time when our country is trying to create opportunities for those who want to work, the House rejected a bill that would have provided 7,000 Michigan residents with good-paying jobs," he said. "In a dark corner of a Maryland prison, Jack Abramoff is smiling right now."

Aaron Payment, the chairman of the Chippewa Indians, also said he's disappointed with the vote.

"We will continue to fight to resolve this illegal land-taking and bring thousands of much-

See **Casino,** page 3

Beautiful music

The Friday, June 27 concert of the Romulus Recreation "Music in the Park" series was hosted by the Romulus Christian Ministerial Association. Thrilling the audience with their high-energy performance was the brass and percussion group "United House of Prayer." Music in the Park, which takes place at the Romulus Historical Park on Ozga Road, occurs every other Friday.

Congress vote kills plan for casino

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

After the decisive rejection of a House bill that would have allowed Indian casinos to open in Romulus and Port Huron, city officials are wondering: What's the next step?

For officials who put resources into getting the bill through Congress after voters approved a ballot initiative to allow gaming in the city in 2003, either taking the issue to federal court, amending the bill, or finding a developer for an expansive parcel of land at Interstate I-94 and Vining Road earmarked for gaming appear to be the options.

"We will meet with the Indians sometime during the next two weeks to map out a plan," said Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert. "As far as they're concerned – and we're concerned – the land claim is not settled. I do know that we're not giving up."

Looking ahead

The U.S. House of Representatives voted down the casinos bill 298-121 – a much higher margin that city leaders expected. The casino development could have brought anywhere from 3,000 to 6,000 jobs to the area, and a provide a dedicated revenue stream for the city of Romulus of $4 to $10 million annually.

But barring a court case, which could take years to wind through the legal system, the city will speak with other developers in an effort to utilize the land, which is close to major freeways and the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Lambert said.

"We're always talking to devel-

See **Plan,** page 3

19 hope to be Belleville manager

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The deadline to apply for the post of Belleville city manager expired recently and 19 have applied for the position.

According to Bob Hamilton, search facilitator for the Michigan Municipal League (MML), it was a fairly good turnout.

"Background wise, most have some local government experience, but it's all over the board," he said. "It's more than individuals looking for a job in local government because all had some experience in local government."

Hamilton said the MML will recommend four to six candidates to the city council members during the July 7 meeting.

"When they're (council members) satisfied with the pool of results, we'll start the interviews," said Hamilton.

The deadline to apply for the job of Belleville City Manager expired last Friday. Job requirements for the position include: a bachelors degree—a masters degree preferred—more than three years experience in public management, municipal experience as a city manager, knowledge of capital improvement project management, skills in developing and administering budgets, the ability to establish constructive relationships with department heads and staff and experience effectively delegating, recognizing and utilizing the expertise of others. It also includes working collaboratively with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the involved community.

Since Belleville employs 18 full-time and 15 paid on-call reserve staff and is a full-service community, including the police, fire, public services, building and zoning, parks and recreation and the clerk/treasurer departments, the ideal candidate will be prepared to make a multi-year commitment to the city. Candidates will also demonstrate their commitment to the community through active civic involvement with various groups, boards, commissions and, as a representative of the city as an invested member of the community, according to the posting.

The salary ranges from $62,000-72,000, depending on qualifications and experience, plus com-

See **Manager,** page 3

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College marks largest-ever graduating class

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) recently celebrated the largest graduating class in the history of the school.

More than 1,600 students—half of them honor students—recently graduated from the college. According to Dr. George Swan, vice chancellor of campus operations, it was a fantastic experience that speaks to the fastest growing community college in the state.

"We're in the Community College Times for one of the fastest growing colleges," he said. "Also, the number of people completing certificates and degrees is growing, which is important for the region and the economy.

"People are seriously looking for quality programs and staying in this region," he added. "Many could be changing careers, but many are also looking for further opportunities for themselves. People are taking a serious look at the needs in this area."

Guest speaker Dr. John Rouche from the University of Austin, who is the grand dean of community colleges, along with special recognition students Sharif AliDinr, Susan La France, Markia Hughes, Keenan Penn Sr., Hassan Hammoud, Tawanda Williams, Laura Stephens, Hellen Kinyanjui and Janice Lossing also spoke about the difference WCCCD has made both professionally and personally.

"My work attitude became more positive and, my education was of interest to both my coworkers and my customers. I have been told I've inspired other people to return to school and pursue their dreams," said La France.

"I was not quite sure which direction I wanted to go in with my studies," said Hughes. "As I walked around the eastern campus and observed all the facilities and employees and how eager they were to help me, I became more and more convinced that I was in the right place."

"This college had transformed my way of thinking about my family, my community and most of all myself," said Penn. "It is because of WCCCD that I have had success in my educational endeavors and this college has opened many doors for me."

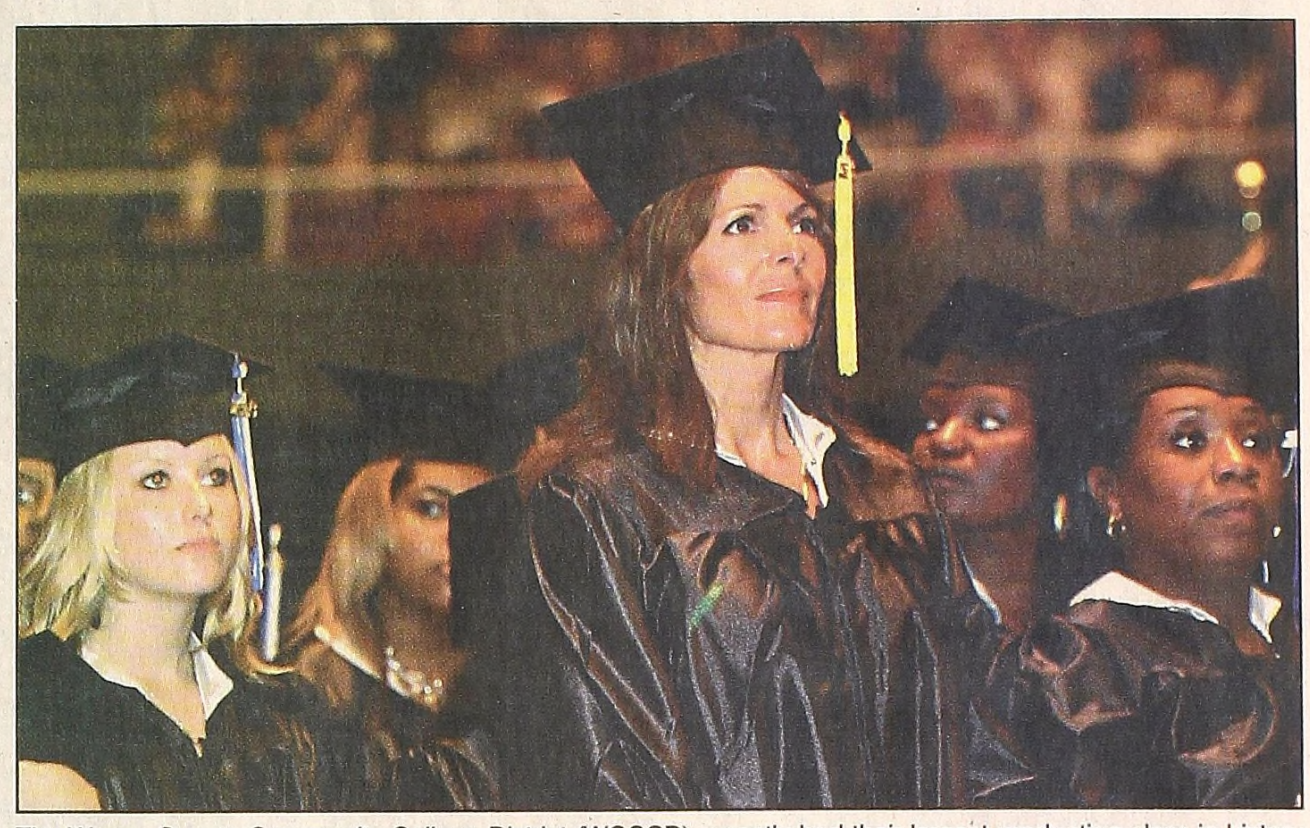
"They represent the breath of experience all our students have," said Swan. "People come from all walks of life. This shows we will continue to grow and impact the regions."

Swan said this also speaks to the energy and effort the district has put in to upgrade facilities and programs, like science and health where students needs are met.

"One thing leads to another," he said. "The programs are growing and it creates an interesting challenge for us knowing the demand is increasing."

Particularly, in fields such as health and technology, which are the fastest growing for the future, officials said.

"That includes the nursing program and specialty technological areas," said Swan. "Health really is leading the band wagon though when thinking of demand. We'll also see a transition in the health care field with the replacement of retirees, too."



The Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) recently had their largest graduating class in history with more than 1,600 students.

Election workers sought by local clerks

Andrea King
Staff Writer

As the primary election approaches, so does the need for election workers in both Belleville and Van Buren Township.

According to Kathy Cline, deputy clerk of Van Buren Township, applications for election inspectors are currently being accepted.

"We're always accepting applications for people to work at the polls," she said.

Their job is critical to ensuring a fair and efficient process and they will help issue ballots, maintain precinct records, ensure that all laws governing the operation of polling places are upheld and finalize paperwork when the polls close, officials said.

Individuals must be registered voters in Wayne County, at least 16 years old, be willing to declare a political party preference and attend election worker training. Ineligible people are candidates for any office, an immediate family member of a candidate, convicted felons or anyone convicted of an election crime.

"After the training they will work on Election Day only," said Cline.

Belleville Clerk/Treasurer Diana Kollmeyer, who is also the acting city manager, said interested residents can apply at city hall, as well.

Clerks also plan on a heavy turnout at the polls for both the primary and the November election. Belleville will have a downtown improvement bond proposal on the primary ballot, while the township will have board of trustee candidates.

"It will probably be busier for the presidential election in November, but we do have about 150 requests for absentee ballots so far," said Kollmeyer.

"We're expecting a high turnout, I think everyone is," said Cline.

The new identification requirements, which are located on the township website, shouldn't tie-up election results, according to the clerks. However, something that can't be predicted is the voter turnout, Cline said.

"The way the results are tallied, the tape prints them right out and the results are there and off to Wayne County," said Cline.

Van Buren voters should have also received new voter registration cards noting the new polling locations from the redistricting changes of last February. Precincts include: one at North Middle School, two at Fire Station Two on Belleville Road, three at township hall, four at the township hall gym, five at Tyler Elementary School, six at Fire Station One on Hull Road, seven at Belleville High School, eight at Haggerty Elementary School, nine at Savage Elementary School, 10 at South Middle School and 11 at township hall.

Precinct inspectors are paid $125 per day. Applications are available at www.vanburen-mi.org for Van Buren Township or at city hall for Belleville.

New neighbors

Fifth Third Bank recently celebrated the grand opening of a new banking center on Belleville Road. It will offer complete banking services with six customer service counters, three drive-through lanes, one drive-up ATM, a night depository and seven private offices for mortgage loans, financial specialists and business banking officers. As part of the celebration, a check for $2,500 was also presented to the Boys and Girls Club of Belleville.

Board reinstates students

Andrea King
Staff Writer

> *I can't comment on the details, but they will be coming back next school year.*
>
> **Paul Henning**

Three Belleville High School students expelled last year following objectionable photos of them on myspace.com have been reinstated for the 2008-2009 school year.

According to Paul Henning, spokesperson for the school district, the students served their expulsions and were reinstated after meetings with the Van Buren Public School Board of Education members. Superintendent of Schools Pete Lazaroff could not be reached for further comment.

"I can't comment on the details, but they will be coming back next school year," said Henning. "The fourth student has yet to be referred."

Last November, seven students were expelled or suspended for gang activity and possession of 'look-alike' weapons and drugs in photographs found on the website, which also showed Belleville High School identification cards, guns, money and drugs on and off school grounds.

A lawsuit was filed by four of the students for damages and demanded reinstatement because they claimed the pictures displayed fake guns and drugs taken for their rap group. Van Buren Township Police later confirmed the guns in the photographs were fake. After new discipline hearings though, the four students were suspended for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year.

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WALL • E (G) 11:00, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:30, 7:20, 9:00, 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 11:30, 12:00
WANTED (R)
11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:50
THE LOVE GURU (PG-13)
9:15 FRI/SAT LS 11:20
GET SMART (PG-13)
11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:55
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13)
11:55, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 6:45

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Brandana hopes fresh ideas, new outlook mean victory

Molly Tippen
Editor

Jill Brandana is looking to take her political career in a forward direction this year.

Brandana, a Taylor City Councilwoman, said her candidacy for a two-year term on as a state representative in District 22 is based on a simple concept: To improve the quality of life for district residents.

"I'm ready to serve as a representative because I believe that I have something to offer residents," she said. "I know that I'm here to do something special."

Brandana, a lifelong resident of Taylor who was elected to the Taylor City Council in her first-ever candidacy, said was raised as a pro-union Democrat who values high paying jobs and a decent standard of living for all residents.

Her top priorities, if elected, would be finding ways to attract new industry to provide jobs, protecting the environment, and finding ways to make healthcare more accessible to uninsured residents throughout the state, she said.

'Jobs are the number on concern right now for families because of the difficult state of the economy in Michigan," said Brandana. "We have a pool of talent here and we need to start aggressively pursuing other industries outside the automotive industry."

Those industries include homeland security, biotechnology, and something near to Brandana's heart – alternative and renewable fuels for a greener environment.

"We have to protect the environment, particularly the Great Lakes," she said. Brandana added that she would support legislation that would limit the amount of water that can be extracted from the Great Lakes for commercial purposes.

Health care is another concern for Brandana, given that insurance is often linked to jobs – which are not plentiful right now.

"The cost of health care is crippling business, and in turn is negatively affecting families," she said. "We need to find a way to unhook health care from businesses."

In the meantime, Brandana said small businesses should be able to pool their resources to purchase prescription coverage and health coverage in bulk, like larger employers do. She also said lower-cost health coverage will help spur business development in the state.

Brandana said her time on the Taylor City Council has prepared her for higher office because she understands what municipalities face in a difficult fiscal environment.

Though a relative newcomer to elected politics, Brandana said her Democratic roots run deep.

Her mother has served as the treasurer and bookkeeper of the Democratic Club of Taylor off and on since 1975. Brandana decided to run for the Taylor City Council in 2005, and she was elected as chairwoman pro-tem.

In addition to her council duties, Brandana is the vice president of the Democratic Club of Taylor and president of the club women's auxiliary.

Currently, Brandana is employed at the law firm of Fieger, Fieger, Schwartz and Kenney in Southfield. There, she works as a legal assistant.

Brandana holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Michigan, and bachelor's degree from the same institution.

Jill Brandana

In her spare time, Brandana also volunteers at First Step, a domestic violence prevention organization.

Brandana is one of five candidates in District 22 seeking a two-year term as a state representative.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fireworks on tap

Romulus Parks and Recreation Department will once again host the annual fireworks celebration to mark Independence Day on July 4.

The fireworks, which will begin at dusk, will take place at the Romulus Historical Park, which is located along Ozga Road, behind the U.S. Post Office.

Nearby Van Buren Township will also host a fireworks display July 5 at the Beck Road Ball Field. A DJ will be on hand to play tunes, and Gloworks will also be on-site.

For more information about the Romulus Fireworks, call (734) 955-4123. For information regarding the Van Buren fireworks, call (734) 699-8921.

Book club ongoing

The Romulus Public Library monthly book club continues to meet from 7 until 8:15 p.m. the second Monday of each month.

Book discussions are free and open to all residents age 18 and up. Participants need not register in advance.

The library will have copies of the books, or staff members will assist readers in getting inter-library loan copy.

The remaining books that will be analyzed include: A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle, and Pontoon-A Novel of Lake Wobegon by Garrison Keillor.

Refreshments will be served.

The Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road.

For more information, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

Golf outing helps children

The Mayor's Drug Task Force Golf Outing will take place Friday, July 11.

The Drug Task Force is a non-profit organization comprised of businesses, government and civic leaders.

Members have accepted an ongoing mission to keep the community drug-free and children safe from the harmful effects of substance abuse, a spokesman said.

The outing will take place at the Gateway Golf Club, located at 33290 Gateway Dr. in Romulus.

The event will begin with an 8 a.m. shotgun start followed by lunch at the turn and dinner at the conclusion of the outing.

Those interested in reserving a spot at the event, or who need more information, are asked to call Kristin Irwin of the Romulus Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 955-4123.

Great Lakes Compact is solidified

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Republican and Democratic leaders in the State Senate appear to have reached an accord on the controversial Great Lakes Compact, which would set stringent guidelines on when or for what reason water should be removed from the waterways surrounding Michigan.

Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor) announced that members of the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Great Lakes and Environmental Affairs Committee reached a compromise to protect waterways by approving the compact.

The agreement bans major water diversions and increases oversight of large quantity withdrawers, Basham said.

"We came together today not as Democrats and Republicans or Senators and Representatives, but as stewards of our land and water, and we worked together to protect our Great Lakes for generations to come," he said.

"While we may have taken longer to pass the Compact than our regional counterparts, we were thorough on behalf of the Great Lakes State and its people and have enacted the most scientifically sophisticated water protection of any state," he said.

Under the agreement, companies that would aim to withdraw many gallons of water must meet the following conditions:

Major diversions of water will be banned, but a regulatory standard of which prevents any water user from creating an adverse resource impact from a new or increased removal of 1 million gallons of water per day, including the removal of groundwater, will be enforced.

Special protections of for thermally-sensitive trout streams will be enacted.

Also, citizens would be able to seek redress if they feel individual rights to waters are harmed.

Basham's bill, SB 727, increases the regulatory oversight of water bottlers by strengthening the permit threshold. Under the bill, bottlers pumping more than 200,000 gallons per day will be subject to the new water rules.

The legislation also allows for public involvement in the permit process for each withdrawal over 200,000 gallons per day.

The bills should go to the legislature for a full vote later this year.

Westland racial slur trial continues

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

The trial of a Westland man accused of allegedly murdering a stranger because of an alleged racial slur continues in circuit court.

Christopher Allunte Long, 19, had spent Monday and Tuesday in the courtroom of Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Timothy Kenney for a trial by jury on the charge of first-degree murder. The murder charge was issued in connection with the fatal stabbing of 45-year-old Gerald William Dean, Jr. of Dearborn that occurred last August. By our Tuesday publication deadline, no verdict had been rendered.

According to police, Dean was doing some restoration work in a vacant apartment in the Country Court Apartments in Westland, located in the area of Ford and Wildwood roads, when he allegedly asked to 'take a hit' on Long's cigarette and was rebuffed. Sgt. Thad Nelson of the Westland Police Department indicated at Long's arraignment, which took place on Aug. 22 of last year in 18th District Court in Westland, that Long told police that as Dean turned away, he had allegedly mumbled a racial slur.

Previous police testimony claimed that Long responded to the alleged insult by going back to his nearby apartment, grabbing a kitchen knife from the sink, and allegedly returning to confront Dean. Nelson had previously indicated in court that Long had claimed that Dean had swung at him and that he allegedly responded by pulling out the knife and stabbing the man in the base of the neck with the knife.

"He then went back to his apartment and began to play video games," said Nelson at the arraignment.

Dean was pronounced dead at Garden City Hospital.

If convicted, a first-degree murder charge is punishable by life in prison without parole. Further information about the outcome of the trial will be posted to the Journal Newspapers web site, www.journalgroup.com, as it becomes available.

Casino

FROM PAGE 1

needed jobs to our state," he said. Payment also thanked elected officials who worked to shore up support for the bill.

Jobs needed

Michigan has lost more than 200,000 manufacturing jobs since the local economy went into a one-state recession about six years ago.

Many of those jobs were located in western Wayne County, Lambert said.

"We lost quite a few jobs here, but this was an opportunity to get people back to work that live in the region – and that includes Detroit," he said.

Estimates indicate a casino would bring about 3,000 jobs related to the casino development itself and several thousand more in offshoot jobs as the need for goods and services increased. The development also would have provided a dedicated revenue stream for the city to the tune of $4 to $10 million annually.

A development would have also included a 200-room hotel, according to plans proposed by the tribe.

Though the jobs would have been located in Romulus, neighboring communities were also hoping the bill would be approved.

"I do know Romulus was looking forward to the economic development having

a casino in their city could generate," said Van Buren Township Cindy King.

"I do know Romulus has worked hard these past several years in the area of economic development and that the location of the proposed casino was a good one from their land use perspective.

"It is unfortunate Romulus may not realize the development, jobs, commercial or other types of business that support or relate to the casino during this difficult economy," she said.

Lambert said the most important aspect of the bill was the jobs.

"I do think our rights – and the rights of the people in Port Huron – were violated," he said. "The bottom line is that we need the jobs."

Plan

FROM PAGE 1

opers – we do have developers that are interested in locating in Romulus," Lambert said.

But casinos – which are often located within a short distance from airports – are still the preferred developments for the site, Lambert said.

"I don't know whether we can amend the bill and take it back for another vote," he said.

Had it been approved, approval of the bill would have settled a long-standing land claim by the Sault Saint Marie band of Chippewa Indians. The casino would have brought with it a 200-room hotel and an additional restaurant and service businesses to cater to gamblers and travelers.

Lambert said the city and tribal attorneys are looking at what the next step should be for both groups.

"A lot of this will be ironed out once we have an opportunity to meet," he said. "The tribe elected a new chairman, and he's just getting his arms around this."

Tribal chairman Aaron Payment said in statement that the tribe was prepared to move forward with the city of Romulus.

"We will continue to fight to resolve this illegal land taking and bring thousands of much-needed jobs to our state," he said.

Another blow

The vote was the latest in a string of disappointments for the city when it comes luring new businesses – and jobs.

In 2007, Canada-based Magna Entertainment scrapped plans for a harness racing track after the group's earnings dipped below expected levels. Another horse racing development – and the revenue it generates – is highly anticipated for neighboring Huron Township.

Also, the Pinnacle Aeropark – which is being pitched by Wayne County as the "Aerotropolis," is also languishing.

The city has also lost two key employers: the bankrupt auto supplier Plastech, and Lear Corp., which chose to shut down operations in Romulus.

It's unclear as of this time whether another Indian tribe could open a casino in Romulus or Port Huron.

One aspect of the situation is clear, at least to Lambert.

"Anything that we want to with this land in terms of development (that is not a casino) would likely happen after the economy improves, but not before," he said.

Manager

FROM PAGE 1

prehensive benefits.

Officials hope to start interviews on July 19.

"I hope to have someone with experience; someone who can pick-up and go and knows what they're doing," said Clerk/Treasurer Diana Kollmeyer, who's also the acting city manager. "I would guess 19 is a good turnout and, at least we have some candidates to look at."

Belleville officials intend to go into a closed session on Monday, as well, to look at resumes. Candidates requested the information be confidential until selected for an interview, Kollmeyer said.

"Hopefully it's not a repeat of any candidates we already had city council look at before," she said. "The MML doesn't know all the candidates we did previously."

Officials could potentially bring back a candidate selection to the July 21 city council meeting, pending background checks.

"After a second round of interviews they could make a decision fairly quickly," said Hamilton. "It's hard to say until after the interviews, but I think we have a good pool of candidates and we hope for a city manager soon for Belleville."

Opinion

Is this any way to treat your neighbor?

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey did what many people suspected him to do recently: he came out in favor of a plan to annex a portion of Northville Township to his community.

For those who aren't familiar with the issue; developers of the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital have been trying just about everything they could to force an overly dense development plan on Northville Township. They've filed lawsuits; they installed security guards on the 414-acre parcel, had them register to vote and then file petitions to rework the boundaries of both communities.

What a sad day for western Wayne County. It's bad enough that communities have to compete against each other to attract businesses, developments—even students—now developers feel like they can pit neighbor against neighbor if they don't like the response they get from one community.

As Fred Shadko, a member of the Citizens for Northville (CFN), put it during an anti-annexation rally Thursday night: it's like the "Ask Mom' plan. If Dad says 'no,' go ask mom. As parents, we all experience it. We just don't usually fall for it.

There have been efforts on both sides to garner support for their positions. City officials are trying to secure a resolution of support from the Livonia Chamber of Commerce. Although it's hard understand what value such a resolution would have, it's also difficult to understand why an organization supported by the existing businesses in town would want to get behind something that would bring in additional competitors.

It's also hard to understand why Kirksey would be so willing to support a plan when he was one of the largest, most vocal critics of the plan to relocate Quicken Loans to the City of Detroit.

Officials in Northville Township have sought support from every avenue they could think of. It now looks like the issue will be settled by a vote on Aug. 5—by voters in Livonia, along with the half-dozen or so 'residents' of the hospital property. In the meantime, legislation that would have protected the township—and others across the state—is being kept in committee. State Sen. Mike Bishop, who last week said he would send along an op-ed column on the issue to this newspaper, has not yet done so. (Do you suppose he's holding that up, too?)

Representatives from CFN are trying to organize to get out the word to Livonia voters. That effort, too, seems a bit too late. It looks like there will be a vote on Aug. 5, and, should it be approved, the people will have been bamboozled by the age old formula of bad politics and greed.

Not so fast there...

The state budget agreement legislators came up with last week shouldn't really surprise anyone.

It appears to ignore economic realities in exchange for political platitudes—it is the election season, after all, and they couldn't have state representatives stumping for jobs with an incomplete job hanging over their heads.

It didn't provide enough funding for schools, it didn't provide any lasting reforms that would make things easier in subsequent years. It didn't make things any easier for businesses at a time when candidates will say they're making jobs their number one priority.

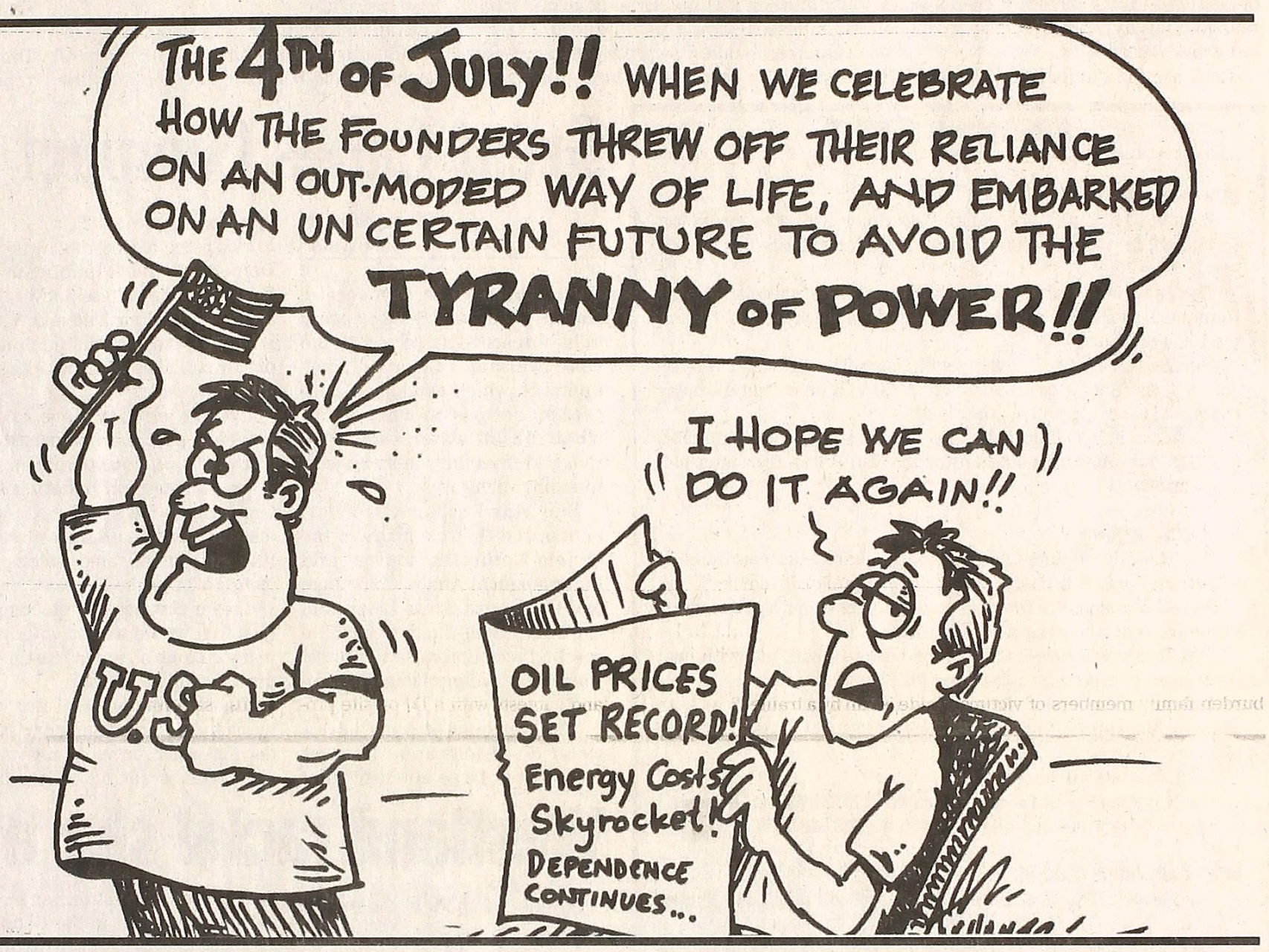
It didn't fulfill the pledge made earlier to local municipalities, either.

Again, this probably didn't come as a surprise to city managers, township supervisors or municipal finance directors. The 4 percent increase in statutory revenue sharing was reduced to 2 percent—a which is sort of like a restaurant buying dessert after they've messed up the entire meal.

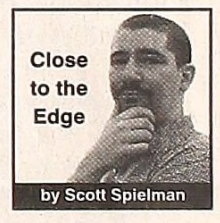
Still, I suppose locals should be happy with this paltry acknowledgement that what they do provides the basis for the entire environment here in Michigan. When people look to relocate, they don't look at the state in general, they look at the community in particular. They want to see sound infrastructure, plenty of parks—safe communities with good schools. Those are becoming more and more difficult to sustain and it's well past time for legislators to realize how their own misguided policies in Lansing are hurting us at home.

Who knows, perhaps this years' batch of candidates will bring out people who have those solutions, who can foster those ideas and make them happen.

Until then, the best thing we can say about this budgetary Band-Aid is that it didn't come under the additional gloom of a governmental shutdown.



Annexation fight makes strange bedfellows



For once, I was happy to see Tom Swigart.

I've had a bit of a hit and miss relationship with the former Northville city councilman over the past few years. He sometimes brought up good points when he was on the council, but he was a bit of an obstructionist at the same time and I started to develop the theory that he was more of a studier than a doer. He was often the lone 'no' vote on the council.

This time, it was Thursday night and we were technically outside the borders of his community. It was in Hines Park at an anti-annexation rally designed to gather support for legislation that would protect Northville Township from losing 414 acres of property to the City of Livonia. I walked up to him, shook his hand and said: Hey, it's good to see you. He probably didn't grasp the significance of that brief statement and we didn't talk much further.

I was busy scanning the crowd.

There were a lot of people there, maybe a hundred which struck me as not a bad turn out for an 11th hour rally organized with little public notice. Several township officials were on hand, of course, as well as representatives from State Rep. Marc Corriveau's office. The one thing that made the rally have an outside chance of impacting a vote on the legislation kept Corriveau and State Sen. Bruce Patterson from attending—a budget agreement had been reached that meant they still had work to do that night. It also meant the legislature would meet again before they broke for the summer.

But back to the crowd.

It was pretty diverse as far as age of the attendees. I didn't poll everyone there, but it's safe to say that there were residents of the township, the city and perhaps Livonia, too.

Swigart, retired as he is now, was the only city official there. That struck me as odd and more than a little sad and short-sighted. Swigart, who attended a rally in Lansing a couple weeks back, said then that he looked at this issue as something that would have a dire impact on the city, too.

He's right. Even the compromise township officials are trying to reach with representatives of REIS would have a huge impact on downtown Northville. It would, in fact, be everything members of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) have been concerned about for the past few years; a regional mall with a larger draw than their downtown, something that would essentially force merchants to rely on their immediate neighbors to support them.

So where, then, is the support from the city of Northville?

Maybe, when all this is said and done, when there's a 100 acre mall at Seven Mile and Haggerty, when Northville residents are being asked for a millage to put up a new school to support an influx of residents township officials knew they couldn't support, or a tax increase to provide additional public safety services there, they won't have to look to their representatives in Lansing or officials in Livonia to find fault.

Maybe all they'll have to do is look to their neighbors.

JOURNAL NEWSPAPERS

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NNA Since 1885 National Newspapers Association

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Timing of change is suspicious

It's one of those things that looks OK on paper, until it ends up in a courtroom.

The recent announcement that a fairly expansive reorganization of the Inkster Police Department would convert the detective lieutenant's position to a training position, and that the narcotics division would be converted to a booster crew, caused a ripple through the department.

I started receiving several calls almost immediately after the memo outlining the changes was released.

Not surprisingly, there were also quite a few complaints. One officer has already resigned because of the changes.

The upset occurred because many of those affected will have to move to different shifts, and at least two command officers – the detective lieutenant and the narcotics sergeant – will be transferred to road positions.

In some cases, the replacements are not as experienced as the people being ousted from their positions.

The people being removed also have a track record of success: The rate of homicides solved in the city is at least 90 percent, and the narcotics crew has brought in several thousand dollars in forfeiture from efforts to take drugs off the street.

Apparently, little explanation for the changes has been offered from the police chief and deputy chief to the troops about what led to the changes, which is exacerbating matters.

A few questions come to mind: First, if the administration wanted to make these changes, why didn't they attempt to negotiate them into the labor contract? Why would the chiefs choose to fight this now, knowing that it sets the city up for litigation and grievances that public money will eventually have to rectify?

Secondly, if the city administration, as City Manager Joyce Parker has said, wants to improve morale in the name of creating a work environment more commiserate with other communities, why are

See **Police,** page 5

Letters

Judge supports law change

To the editor:

I would like to applaud State Rep. Phil LaJoy and his colleagues for their efforts to repeal Michigan's Driver Responsibility Law.

This was initially a well intended, albeit poorly thought out law designed to raise revenue by penalizing 'bad drivers.' It was modeled after a New Jersey Law and New Jersey ultimately wrote off several hundred million dollars in non-collectible taxes. Michigan's non-collected responsibility fees (taxes) are growing dramatically and only about half of the fees assessed to date have been collected.

Last year, Rep. LaJoy held hearings in his transportation committee. This law in effect has been a tax on the poor and those least able to afford it.

The number of drivers whose privileges have been suspended has increased by multiples as a result of this law which has affected many, including employers who need licensed drivers to get to work and those who want to work who are attempting to eke out a living in our faltering economy, but have no transportation.

Unfortunately revenue sources for governments become addictive. While nearly everyone acknowledges this law is unfair, the question is how do you replace the lost revenue (last year, $111 million). Representative LaJoy's bill allows those who currently owe responsibility fees to the state (sometimes thousands of dollars per driver), a window of opportunity wherein they can settle these balances for 50 cents on the dollar, which should generate an influx of revenue to help offset the revenue loss while Michigan tries to get its economy back on track.

Michael Gerou
35th District Court Judge

CORRECTION:

The email address for State Rep. Richard LeBlanc last week should have been: Richard Leblanc@house.mi.gov.

Police

FROM PAGE 4

certain employees constantly under scrutiny while others are given a pass?

At this newspaper, we receive about two calls a month asking us about unsolved murders – the victim's families often want to know if I somehow know something that they don't. I generally don't have an answer for them – but it shows the burden family members of victims continue to bear.

Since there are fewer unsolved cases, there are fewer of those living victims walking around.

Why, then, should anyone responsible for the positive change be removed?

It might not seem like a big deal to the average resident – unless, of course, you are that victim.

The administration needs to put themselves in the place of city residents: Would they want to know that the unit charged with investigating their child or parent's homicide is run by a trainee?

Last year, youngsters didn't hesitate to jump right into the pit at Wayne County Mud Day, scheduled for next Tuesday in Hines Park in Westland.

County 'Mud Day' is Tuesday

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Wayne County Parks will pay tribute to the concept of good clean fun as they once again host Mud Day at Hines Park in Westland.

As part of the annual Mud Day event, a portion of the Nankin Mills picnic area, located on Hines Drive near Ann Arbor Trail in Westland, will be transformed in to giant mud pit from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on July 8 to offer children a unique opportunity to get filthy without getting in trouble.

"This is the 20th year for Mud Day," said Wayne County Parks Director Beverley Watts. "It started in 1988."

County staff will create a mud pit about a third of the size of a football field by mixing 200 tons of topsoil and 20,000 gallons of water as part of the entertainment. Inside the pit, children can participate in a variety of different games, races, and contests with a DJ on-site providing age-appropriate music to accompany the festivities. At the end of the day, the filthiest boy and the filthiest girl will earn the titles of Mr. and Ms. Mud.

The event, deemed 'every child's fantasy and every mother's nightmare', routinely attracts a large number of participants eager to embody the definition of filthy.

"The last couple years our numbers have been over the roof," said Watts, adding that the event typically draws between 1,500-2,000 children.

When the time comes to go home, participants will be able to hose the dirt off of themselves under a cascade of water from fire hoses wielded by the Westland Fire Department.

Unlike prior years, however, the fun won't end there. Instead, this year marks the first time the event has been expanded to specifically include older children.

"We're going to have a new event, mud madness volleyball, for teens," said Watts.

At the new event, students between the ages of 13-17 will be able to have their own fun in the mud from 2-4 p.m. when volleyball nets will be set up in the Mud Day pit. The event is free, but teens must pre-register to participate and space is limited.

"It's a short drive—you don't have to spend a lot on gas," said Watts. "You don't have to spend money on anything. This is just a great family event."

Organizers recommend that participants dress in old clothes during the Mud Day event. Parents are encouraged to bring a towel and a clean set of clothes, too.

Mud Day will occur rain or shine although it may be cancelled in the event of a thunderstorm. Preregistration is required only for the mud madness volleyball; no registration is necessary for the traditional Mud Day event. For more information about this free event, contact the Wayne County Parks at (734) 261-1990 or visit www.waynecounty.com/parks.

CLASSIFIED

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108. Lake and Resort
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115. Autos for Sale
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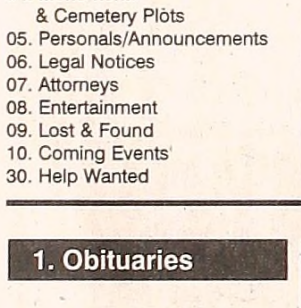
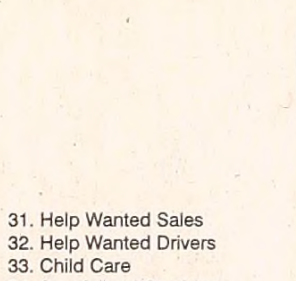
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Freebies
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries

CASSIDY, Catherine M. of Wayne, died June 30, 2008. Loving wife of the late John. Dear mother of John (Patricia), Doris A. Udell (William), Louise Eckles andf the late Delores. Sister of Gladys Seeger, Mary Jane Sharp and John Hopkins. Catherine was preceded in death by 3 brothers and 1 sister. Grandmother of 8 and great grandmother of 8.Funeral services Thursday July 3, instate at 10:30am for an 11:00am Mass at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Wayne, MI.



DILLARD, Columbus, age 70, died June 19, 2008. He was born December 28, 1937. Columbus is survived by his wife Gloria Jean (who he loved so dearly and who love him as dearly); one daughter, Bridgette Dillard of Memphis, TN; two step children, Carmen Mosley and Donald Reese; two grandchildren, Tiffany and Orlando; two sisters, Virginia White of Detroit, MI and Lottie Jackson of Henderson, NV; two brothers, Sammy and Michael, both of Inkster, MI; 18 nieces and nephews and numerous other relatives and friends. He also leaves a very special friend, Shawn Taylor. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Pastor Leri Cyrus officiating. Interment was at United Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Plymouth, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



DYSON, Shawn Ladell, age 38, died June 24, 2008. He was born November 12. Fond memories of Shawn are shared by his mother Rosemary, his sister Deborah and his brothers Roderick and Christopher. He will also be remembered by his grandmother Addie, his uncles, Anthony, Michael Eric, Everett Jr., Gregory and Brian Dyson, along with his aunt Evelyn Shaw. Uncle Shawn always had a special place in his heart for Jason, Chimere, Tiffany, Ramone, Damien, Lil' Rod, Miles, Lil' Jason and Nya. Beloved cousins Vagie, Portia and Dana and their children. This light will always shine brightly. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Pastor Roscoe Belton officiating. Interment was at Knollwood Memorial Gardens, Canton, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

HAMILTON, Evangelist Pearlie Mae, age 65, died June 19, 2008. She was born July 6, 1942. She shall truly be missed by her seven children, Thaddeus, Randy (Esther), Rozlyn (William), James Jr. (Toyia), Jaime, Christopher (Amie) and Brandi (Demetrius); her twenty three brothers and sisters, Jimmie Dale, Ricky, Larry, Joyce, Willie James, Billie Lee, Bessie, Rose, Phelix, Shirley, Wanda, Sylvia, Maxine, Patricia, Victoria, Rose, Nicole, John Earl, Johnnie Lee, Paul, Jace, Connell and Jessie; eleven grandchildren, Katrina, Sylvester, Randy, Syreena, Jada, Cameron, Christopher jr., Christiyannie, James III, Precious and Jaime; her step mother, Eva Mae Smith and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends. Services were held at Strong Tower Ministries, Ypsilanti, MI with Pastor Michael Rosier officiating. Interment was at Sunset Hills Cemetery, Ypsilanti, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

Call
734-467-1900
to place your
classified ad.

6. Legal Notices

Please take notice that furnishings and appliances, Associated Newspapers Of Michigan, Inc., Willett Communications Group, Inc., Willow Media LLC, and miscellaneous personal property will be offered for sale to the public for cash at 8549 Ronda, Canton, Michigan on July 11, 2008 at 8 a.m. Bidders must preregister with deposits or letters of credit at G&B II, P.C., 74 West Long Lake Road, Suite 200, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

BOLD PRINT
ATTRACTS MORE
READERS!

30. Help Wanted

Full Time Custodian
Van Buren Township
To perform a variety of janitorial duties typically associated with the cleaning of offices, meeting rooms and other facilities.
Union position.
Applications will be accepted until July 24, 2008.

A full job description is available at:
www.vanburen-mi.org

Must apply in person at the Van Buren Township Clerk's Office
46425 Tyler Road
Belleville, MI 48111
Van Buren Township is an equal opportunity employer.

Wayne-Westland Community Schools
Position open as follows:
Registered Nurse with Associate's Degree in Nursing
Works under the direction of the School Nurse to provide services to Special Education students.
Posting closes July 11, 2008

Apply on-line at:
http://wwcsd.net
or in person at:
Wayne Westland Community Schools
36745 Marquette
Westland, MI 48185
EOE

Call
734-467-1900
to place your
classified ad.

34. Specialized Services

BRATCHER ELECTRIC
COMPLETE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SINCE 1956
Remodeling • Service • City Repairs
734-722-0037
35728 Van Born • Wayne

121. Autos Wanted

JUNK CARS WANTED
"ONE OF THE LARGEST STOCKS IN THE AREA"
WE PAY TOP $$$ FOR CARS
E&M AUTO PARTS
OVER 1,000 CARS
MON.-FRI 8:30-5:30 SAT 8:30-4:00
ENGINES TRANSMISSIONS
RADIATORS
AIR CONDITIONING
BODY PARTS AUTO GLASS
USED WHEELS BRAKE PARTS
FENDERS HOODS
DOMESTIC & FOREIGN
"CARS FROM THE 60'S TO NOW"
42800 Yost Rd.
(At Intersection of Van Born & Morton Taylor in Canton)
734-397-2200
248-474-4425

Worship Directory

Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church
DISTRICT ELDER LUKE A. McCLENDON, PASTOR
Sunday
Sunday Morning Prayer (8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.)
Christian Education (9:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m.)
Morning Worship Service (11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)
Nursery Room Available for Children 4 Years of Age and Under
29124 Eton Street • Westland, MI 48186 • 734-326-3833
www.christtempleafcw.com

Funeral Directory

Harry J. Will Funeral Homes
34567 Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI 48184
(734) 721-5600
Tom Lynch • Manager
Jim Henley • Director
Also in Livonia & Redford

UHT FUNERAL HOME
Harold Rediske Jr., Director
Harold Rediske II, Robert J. Gilbert,
35400 Glenwood Road
Westland, MI 48186 • (734) 721-8555
www.uhtfuneralhome.com

24 HOUR SERVICE • FAX 278-7314
The Penn Funeral Home
"The Funeral Home You Can Believe In"
JAMES H. PENN & SON
3015 S. Inkster Rd.
Inkster, MI 48141
313-278-6300

31. Sales Help Wanted

ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

The Journal Newspapers has immediate openings for sales representatives to serve our circulation area. Candidates must have reliable transportation and a willing attitude. Base plus commission. Newspaper or media sales experience preferred, but will train the right candidate.

Please send resume detailing experience and availability to:

Susan Willett
Journal Newspaper Group
P.O. Box 339
Wayne, MI 48184

32. Help Wanted Drivers

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GRAND OPENING
Southgate Facility!
Visit U.S. Truck Driving School
MI Works Approved &
Backed by the Countries
Top 5 Trucking Co's!
Earn 1st year
$725-$1,000/wk!
800-397-2324

Help Wanted
Substitute Bus Drivers
for Van Buren Public Schools, Belleville.
$11.50 per hour.
Call 734-699-5100
for more info.

33. Child Care

NETTIE'S KIDDIE KORNER
Now Enrolling
Child Care
2 1/2 wks. to 10 yrs.
Youth Programs
11 to 17 yrs
24Hr Licensed Daycare
313-295-2453

45. Adult Care

Need caring staff to provide in home and community based training and activities for handicapped gentleman in family's home.
$11.00/hr.
Call 734-678-9595

59. Auctions

MR. STOR-IT
5235 Merriman Rd.
Westland, MI 48186
734-721-4670

Auction Date:
Sat., July 19, 2008
11:00 AM

CASH & CREDIT ONLY
NO CHECKS

Unit 125-Richard Rumsey: Auto parts, boxes, fishing poles
Unit 135-James Johnson: Boxes, furniture, household misc.
Unit 457-Ladina Zirker: Bike, boxes, furniture, TV, snow-blower
Unit 516-Tara Hall: Furniture, washer, microwave, air cond.
Unit 561-Shannon Medley: Waterbed, bixes, furniture, stove, tools
Unit 827-Jeanette Roundtree: Bed, furniture, appliances
Unit 852-King Academy: Boxes, file cabinets, dresser, computers
Y805-William Sweeney: 1968 Volkswagen
Y864-Gregory Huck: 1988 Trans-Am
Y513-Richard Lannin Jr.: 1970 Searay
Y23-Darrell Ingram: Bayliner

Notice is hereby given that on 7/23/08 at 3:00 PM, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

The Storroom Self Storage
40600 Michigan Ave
Canton, MI

Space #225-Arafan Kande: Household goods, recreational items, misc. goods
Space #321A-Donna Pendergrass: Household goods, misc. goods
Space #607-Ellen Kates: Household goods, misc. goods
Space #747-Carlos Chavez: Household goods, recreational items, misc. goods
Space #902B-Steven J. Kleitch: Household goods, recreational items, misc. goods
Space #1008B-Wanna Johnson: Misc. goods

Notice of Public Sale
On July 22, 2008 at 1:00 PM, U-Store-It 401, 28266 Ecorse Road, Romulus, MI 48174, will sell the following units to highest bidder by cash. U-Store-It reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. All items in storage units contain household items unless otherwise mentioned.

C1-Dawn Rojas
D89-Sheila M. Gorsuch
D19-John E.Spink III
E18-Carmel Taylor
E39-D&M Home Improvement: Tools, misc.

Public Auto Auction
Wednesday, July 9, 2008
8:00 AM
Westland Service Towing
300 S. Newburgh
Westland, MI 48186

96 Chev. Monte Carlo
2 Dr Blue
2G1WX12X2T9177108

99 Saturn SL2
4 Dr Gold
1G8ZK5279XZ366208

93 Ford Taurus
4 Dr Green
1G8AJ52F64Z192245

Note: Vehicles are Canton impounds

Public Auto Auction
Tuesday, July 8, 2008
10:00 AM
Westland Service Towing
300 S. Newburgh
Westland, MI 48186

95 Ford Explorer
Green
1FMDU34X8SZB23814

89 Honda Civic
2 Dr Tan
2HGED6344KH516020

93 Chev. Astrovan
Green
1GNDM19W9PB147345

91 Ford Aerostar
Brown
1FMDA31X5MZA71994

92 GMC PU
Black/Gray
1GTDT19Z0N2521912

Note: Vehicles are Westland impounds

61. Misc. Items

NEW QUEEN PILLOWTOP
Mattress & Box Set
$175

KING SIZE 3-piece Orthopedic Mattress & Box Set
$250

New in Plastic
Can Deliver
734-326-2744

SOFA & LOVESEAT SET
NEW in plastic & crate.
Full Warranty
$450

NEW 5 Pc. Cherry Bedroom Suite
All brand NEW in boxes
$395

Must Sell
Can Deliver
(734) 637-2012

Record Album Collection
LPs and 45s
Mostly country
Will sell entire collection or seperately
Very good to new cond.
Call 734-326-7389

87. Rooms For Rent

AAA Willow Acres
Motel, low daily and weekly rates.
Refrigerator, microwave, Cable TV.
Call 734-721-1220
Tel-96 Inn
313-535-4100
Fairlane in Novi
248-347-9999
Days Inn/Sunrise Motel
734-427-1300

BELLEVILLE
Furnished, utilities, cable TV and refrigerator included.
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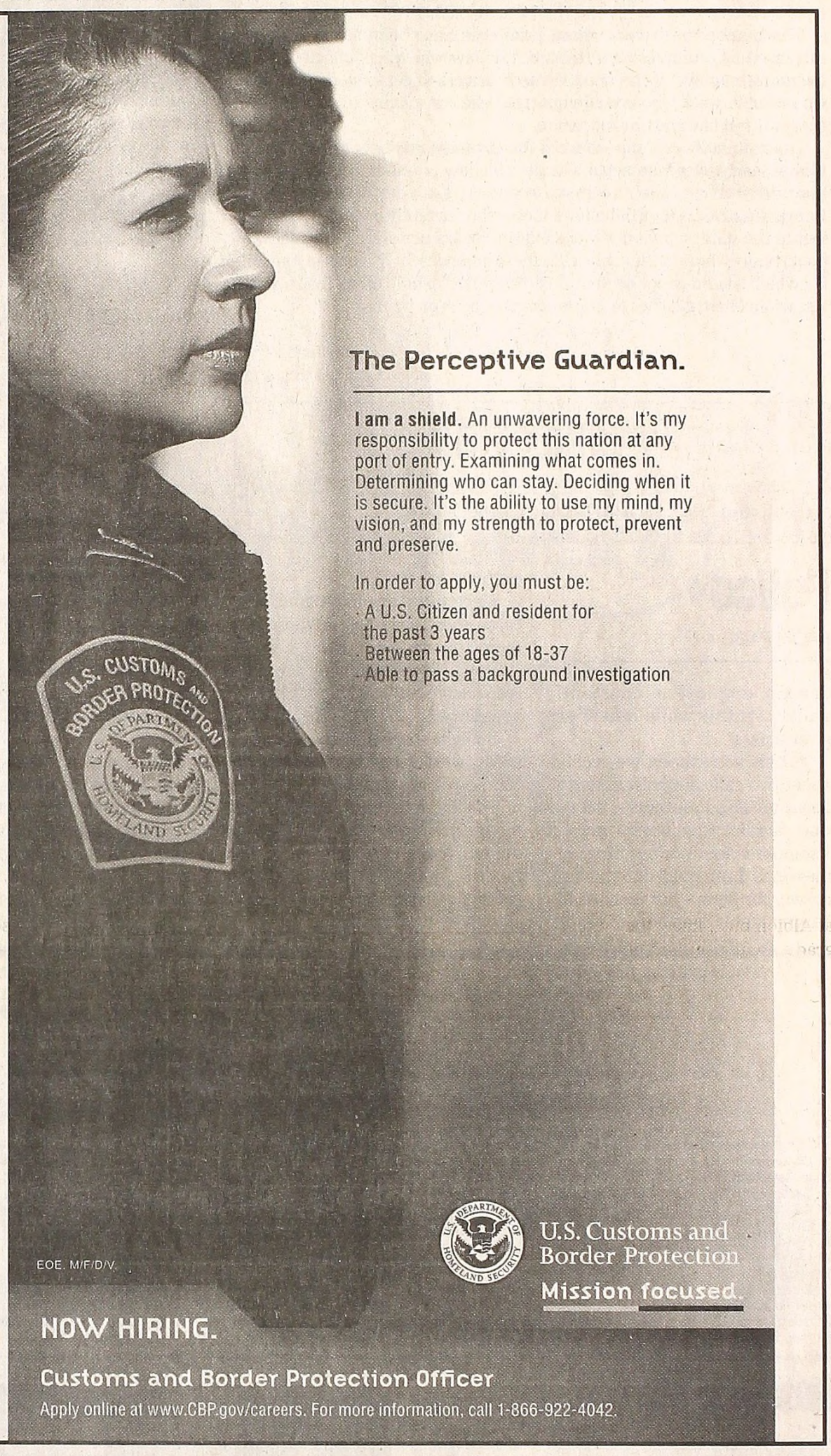

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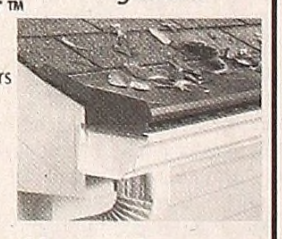

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SPORTS

Northville star heads to Albion

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

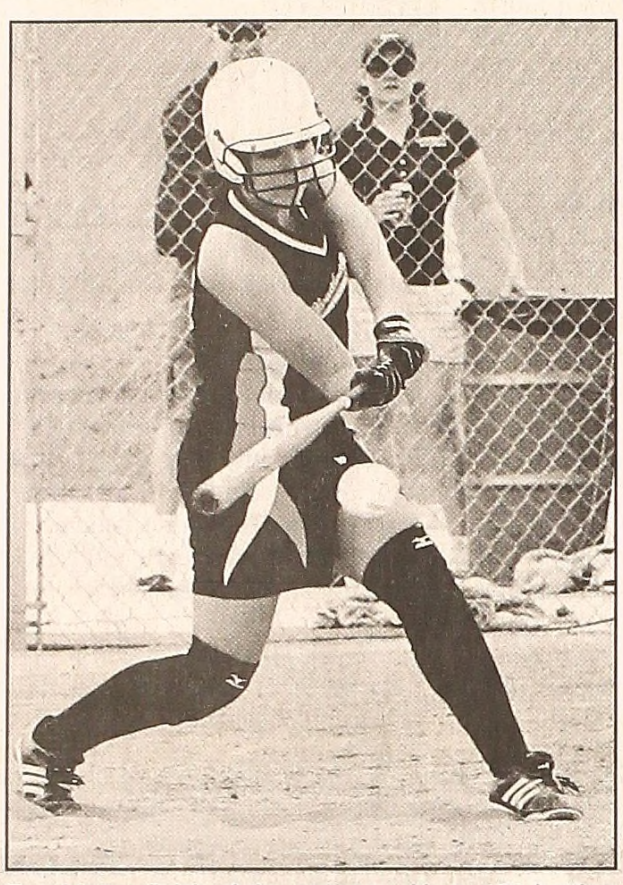
Northville graduate Jenna Dumbleton walked in to the Starbucks in Northville and ordered her grande café mocha like it was business as usual.

Dumbleton, an 18-year-old superstar on the Northville varsity softball team and one of the best players to come out of the area, placed what would be one of her last orders at the downtown spot—at least for a little while.

Starting in late August she will have to shop around for another coffeehouse to serve up her chocolate-infused beverage. She's heading to Albion College to play the game she loves and to study chemistry.

The look in her eyes says she is ready to go and the Britons should be excited to have her.

Dumbleton helped the Lady Mustangs to a 29-5 overall record and win their first district title in the school's history this spring. She batted .420 on the season—a personal best and the second best on the team behind junior catcher Sarah Rounsifer—with 17 RBIs on 36 singles, 12 doubles and two triples.

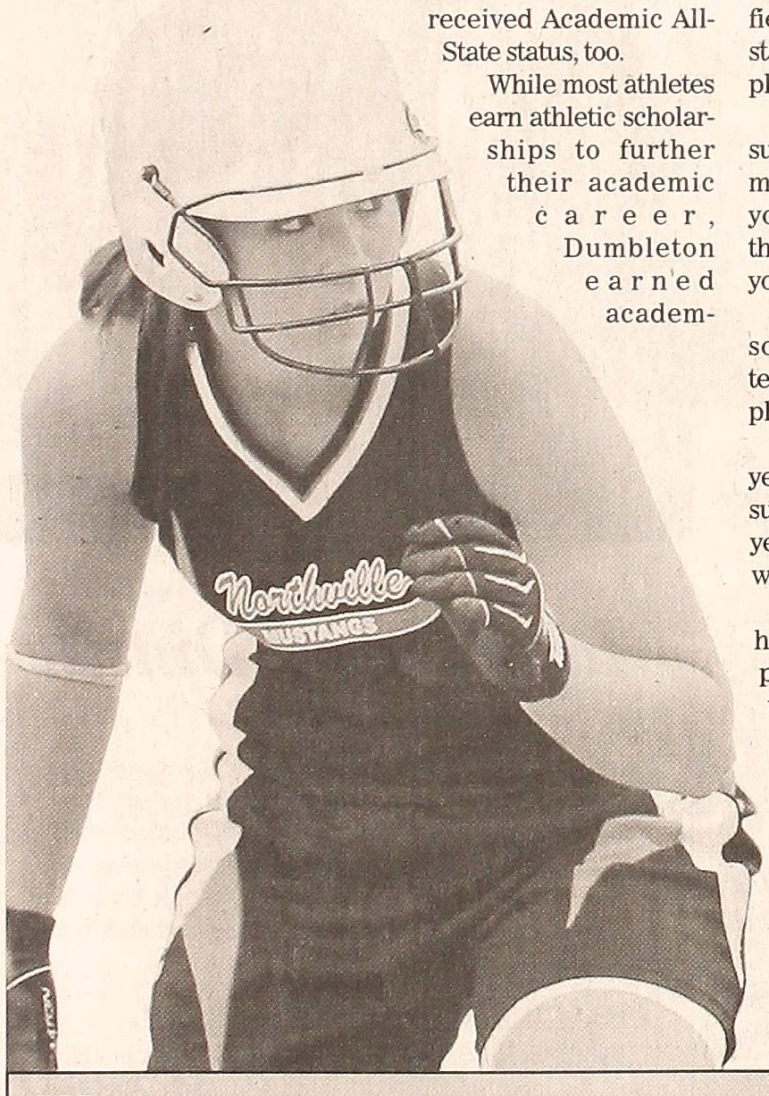


Dumbleton finished the season with a .420 batting average for a personal best and team second best.

Until she suffered a back injury this year she was a force to be reckoned with from the circle. She was still 9-0 on the season with a 1.795 ERA, striking out 59 of 210 batters despite the injury. With her back aching and teammate Allison Holmes pitching so well, Dumbleton made the move to one of her other favorite positions—shortstop. There she shored up a defense that only allowed 29 earned runs in 34 games.

"I hadn't played shortstop since my freshman year and being back there just reminded me how much I loved it," she said. "It was pretty good move. I'm not sure what (position) I'll get to play at Albion but I know they didn't graduate any seniors but I will work real hard and will play where ever they need me to."

Dumbleton's performances on the field earned her All-District and WLAA All-Conference honors and her accomplishments off the field earned her Academic All-State with a GPA above 3.6. The team received Academic All-State status, too.



While most athletes earn athletic scholarships to further their academic career, Dumbleton earned academic scholarships to advance her athletic career.

At Albion she earned a Trustee's Scholarship for academics.

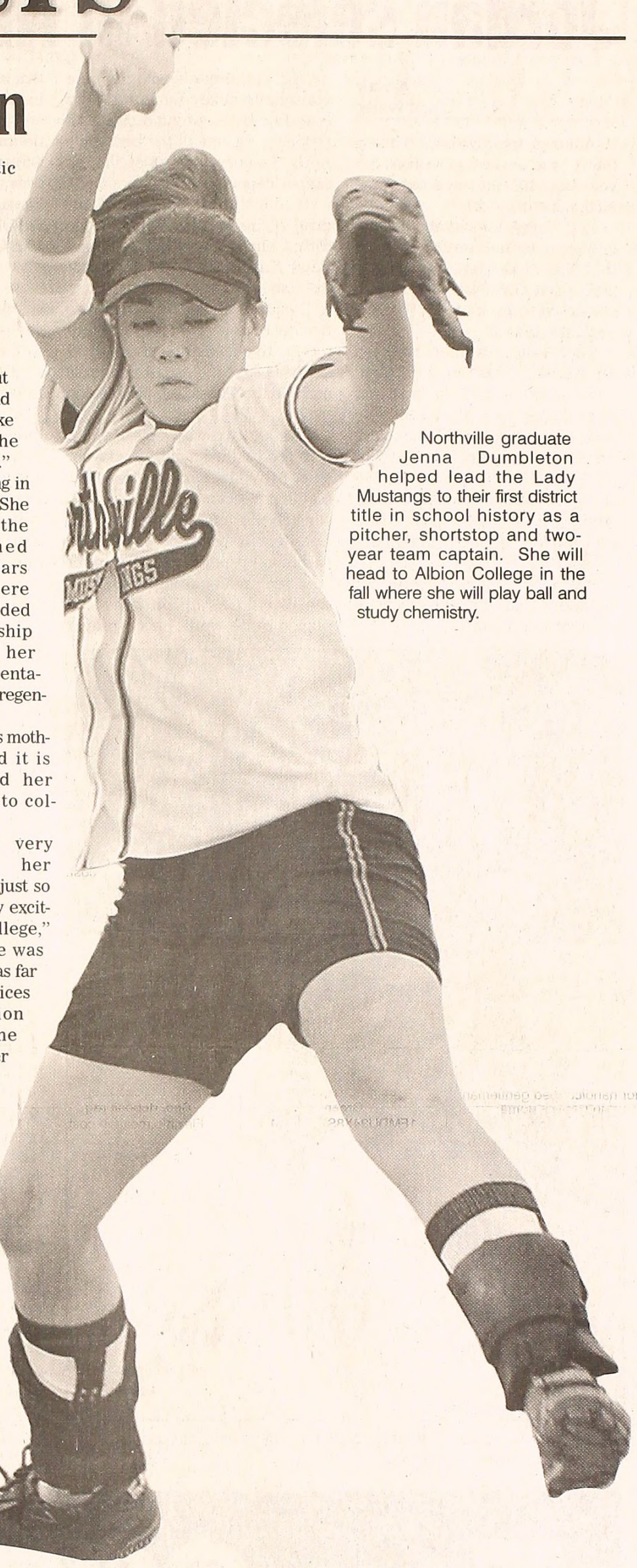
She didn't initially want to go to Albion and follow in her brother's footsteps and fall under his shadow again—like in high school—but once she took a tour of the new science center she was sold.

"I'm a dork like that," she laughed. "But since I want to do something in science and I will spend most of my time there. I like that it is a smaller school because (the University of) Michigan was too big for me."

Dumbleton wishes to pursue something in bio-medical engineering field. In fact, She was selected to participate in the Distinguished Albion Scholars program, where she was awarded extra scholarship money for her research presentation on tissue regeneration.

Dumbleton's mother, Julie, said it is hard to send her daughter off to college.

"I'm also very happy for her because she's just so ready and very excited to start college," she said. "She was very selective as far as college choices and Albion College is the right fit for her academically. She's also looking forward to playing softball for Coach Katie Kelly (a Salem graduate), who seems to have big plans for Jenna."



Northville graduate Jenna Dumbleton helped lead the Lady Mustangs to their first district title in school history as a pitcher, shortstop and two-year team captain. She will head to Albion College in the fall where she will play ball and study chemistry.

Pressure to perform well on the field started early for Dumbleton. She started her varsity career as a freshman, playing between shortstop and pitcher.

"There was definitely a lot of pressure," she said. "You feel like you have more to prove, because being the youngest on the team it's like you're there for a reason—you have to show that you deserve that spot."

That year—her freshman season—she thought that varsity team was the best she would play on. Boy was she wrong.

"Then the next three years up until this year definitely surpasses my freshman year," she said. "Everything about this year—the chemistry of the team and how well we played—was just phenomenal."

Dumbleton didn't lift the Northville Lady Mustangs single-handedly but she was a part of the team's nucleus of talented players that led to its best season to date as a four-year varsity starter and two-year team captain.

"Jenna is a competitor," said Northville Coach Teryn Chrzanowski. "She works hard to improve and wants to see her team succeed. She loves the game of softball and that's why it's exciting that she will continue playing next year at Albion."

Dumbleton is uncertain if she will have the opportunity to start right away but she's looking forward to spending time with her new team.

"The coach is really nice," she said of Kelly. "I met all of the players and they made feel welcomed."

Of course there is no rest for the wicked, or good in this case. Along with spending as much time with her family and friends before she leaves and while reading three books ("The Decameron," "Thank You For Smoking"—to read before Albion, and "Footfree and Fancyloose," for fun) at once, Dumbleton is in her last year playing travel ball for the Compuware U-18 team.

She spent last week at a tournament in Colorado and is usually on the road every weekend through the summer.

Dumbleton as a person and player will definitely be missed next year.

"Jenna is a very intelligent, funny, caring young woman," Chrzanowski said. "I know that she will be successful at Albion as she is such a great athlete. She will be missed at NHS next year, but it will not be forgotten how much of an impact she's made and what a big part she was in building this program."

Wayne soccer camp a success

There is little argument that the City of Wayne is a football haven.

But is it an international football—a.k.a. soccer—town? It could lead to that with the success of a recent elementary soccer camp last week.

The camp, put on by the City of Wayne Parks and Recreation, brought 46 participants from grades 2-5 to the soccer fields at Attwood Park. That was the second highest turnout for a sports camp behind the 58 that showed for a basketball camp four years ago, according to Parks and Recreation supervisor Steve Winkleman.

Camp Instructor Nick Lloyd of the Wayne Westland Soccer Association taught basic fundamental skills for beginners and intermediate players. Camp fees were $30 for residents and $40 for non-resident and participants walked away with a soccer ball and t-shirt.

"We try to keep our sports camps at a cheap rate so that all can participate and have fun," Winkleman said. "The camp was a great success. Nick Lloyd did a great job instructing his first camp with us and the kid's really enjoyed it."

The camp raised $500 for the Elementary After School Recreation Program.

The next soccer camp will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 14-18 for grades 6-9. Registration is open now at the Wayne Community Center. For more information, call (734) 721-7400.

Second through fifth grade soccer players enjoyed themselves at the City of Wayne Recreation soccer camp last week.

SPORTS

Plymouth Whalers Jenks, Jordan selected in NHL draft

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Although the Plymouth Whalers didn't have the best of seasons last year they still churned out some NHL hopefuls.

Left wing A.J. Jenks and defender Michal Jordan were selected in the National Hockey League (NHL) Entry Draft last month. Both are expected back on the Whalers roster this season.

The Florida Panthers selected the 6-foot-2 Jenks in the fourth round (100th overall). Jenks scored 26 goals and had 29 assists in 66 games last season with Plymouth. He was a member of Team USA at the 2007 Hlinka Tournament in Slovakia. Central Scouting ranked him 50 in its final rankings and said he hits top speed remarkably quick.

Plymouth Coach Greg Stefan told the Florida Panthers website in a June 21 posting:

"A.J. is definitely going to be a National Hockey League player one day. He's got good size and probably has one of the best shots in the league, from wrist shot or snap-shot perspective."

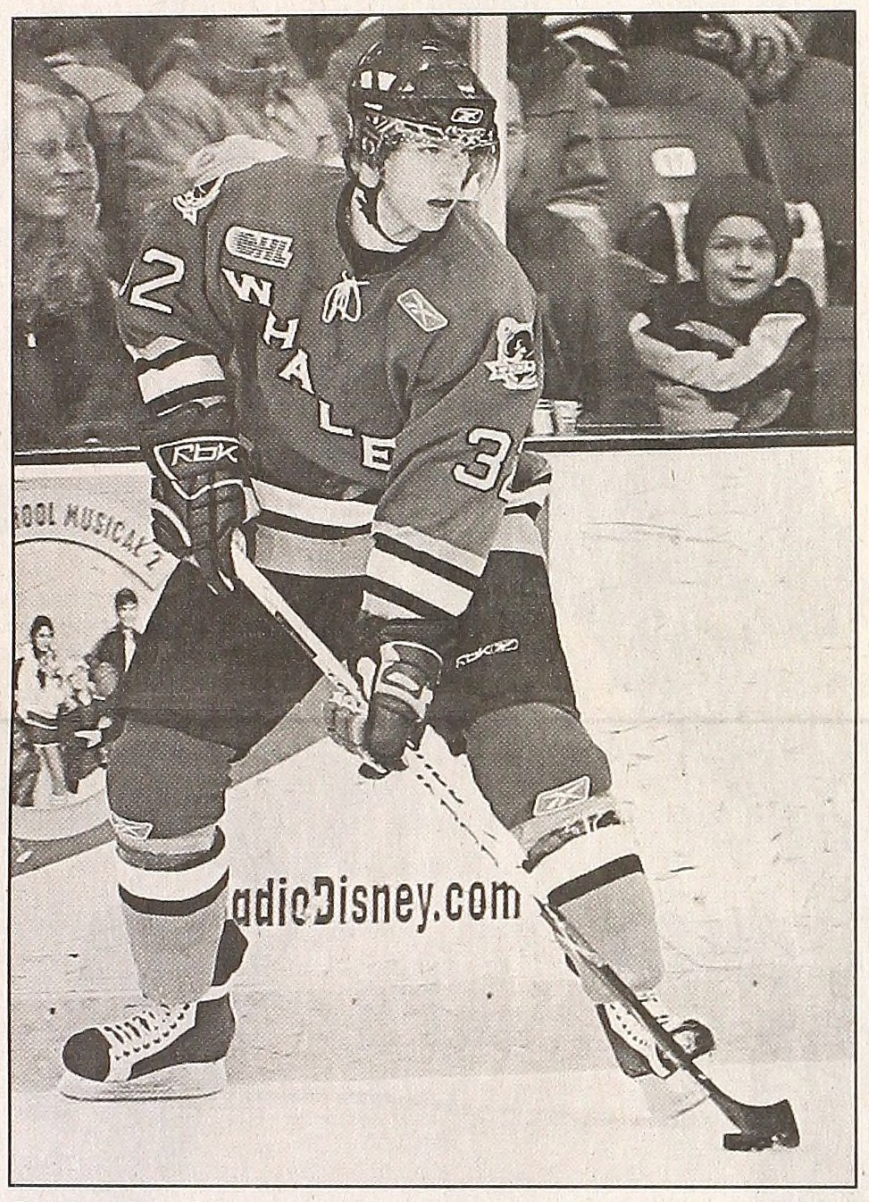
It just wouldn't be a regular draft if the Carolina Hurricanes didn't choose a Whaler or two. Peter Karmanos Jr, the owner of the 'Canes owns the Whalers, too.

Carolina chose Jordan in the fourth round (105 overall). He scored five goals and notched 17 assists in 39 regular season contests and had three assists in post season play.

"He's a two-way defenseman with good skill, a heads-up player," said Tony MacDoanld, amateur scouting director for Carolina on a June 19 post on the organization's website. "He plays the power play, he can kill penalties. He played for the Czech national junior team at the World Championships and played quite well...he's a player that has a chance to ultimately play in the National Hockey League."

Carolina also picked up the little-known 2008 Whaler draft Zac Dalpe in the second round (45th overall). Dalpe hasn't played for Plymouth yet and might be skating for Ohio State University for the 2008-09 season.

The Florida Panthers selected Plymouth left wing A.J. Jenks in the 4th round of the NHL Entry Draft last month. Photo by Walt Dmoch



Carolina chose Whaler defender Michal Jordan in the 4th round of the NHL Entry Draft. Photo by Walt Dmoch

Whalers draft Latal

Plymouth Whalers nabbed 18-year-old defenseman Jan Latal with the 55th selection of the annual Canadian Hockey League Import Draft.

The Whalers were scheduled to have the 25th pick but Mike Vellucci, the Whalers President and general manager, traded down when he moved the pick to Belleville for the Bulls' 55th selection. Belleville also sent a fourth round pick in the 2011 OHL Draft to the Whalers to complete the deal.

Plymouth passed on its second selection—85th overall.

Latal played for Kladno in the Czech Republic last season, scoring three goals with three assists in 28 games. A knee injury (since repaired) cut Latal's season short last year. Before that, Latal played internationally for the Czech Republic in the Under-16 and Under-17 World Tournaments.

"Our scouts knew about him," Vellucci said. "Latal's a steady, stay-at-home defenseman. Although we traded down, he was still available and we were able to get a fourth round pick as well."

Latal comes from a hockey playing family. His brother, Martin, is a Phoenix Coyotes draft choice who has played the last two seasons for Prince Edward Island in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. Latal's uncle, Jiri, played from 1989-92 for the Philadelphia Flyers.

"Latal's got an excellent shot," said Plymouth scout Willy Langer. "He's a good skater with good vision. He's not afraid to play in traffic in front of the net or along the boards."

Canadian Hockey League teams can play with two Imports. The Whalers currently have three, veteran Jozef Sladok and now Latal. Jordan, Sladok and Latal are expected to report to Plymouth's training camp in late August.

Smith, Jenks named to USA Hockey Junior evaluation camp

Current Whalers Jeremy Smith (Brownstown) and Jenks (Wolverine Lake) were named to the 2008 USA Hockey National Junior Evaluation Camp, held in Lake Placid, NY from August 1-9.

The Nashville Predators chose Smith, a goalie, in the second round (54th overall) in the 2007 National Hockey League Entry Draft. He was signed by the Predators last season, but should return to Plymouth for the 2008-09 season. An OHL All-Star last season, Smith has a 2.82 goals-against average and a 46-21-5 won-loss record over 79 career games. He played for the United States in the 2008 World Junior Championships and received USA Hockey's Dave Peterson Award in 2007 as the top junior goaltender in the United States.

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Development authority OK's downtown project

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) officials recently approved the 'resolution to invest in downtown' as part of the Main Street project in Belleville.

The project will take two years, starting in July 2009, with the final date still to be negotiated between business owners and the development group, according to Carol Thompson, administrative coordinator for the downtown development group.

"We've addressed the issue of how the business owners were concerned with the construction interfering with business in the spring, like the business owners wanted," she said.

Development authority members believe infrastructure improvements and enhancements to the downtown are needed and will include the replacement of the water main along Main Street, concrete paving, streetscape improvements, side street paving and improvements at Fourth Street Square, according to the resolution.

The resolution includes language requiring the project serve the 'best interest' of all and to make every reasonable attempt to find a schedule for construction that will minimize the impact on business owners while doing so in a fiscally responsible manner.

"I'm optimistic that we can begin working together with the merchants and move forward in 2009," said Rosemary Loria, chairman of the development group.

The plans are all dependent on the outcome of the referendum ballot in the August election. If approved, the bonding process can start for the project.

"The hope is for a positive outcome from the August referendum," said Loria. "I hope everyone understands the importance of getting Main Street done and to not delay it any longer than we have to. I hope we can get this started."

The group feels there have been misunderstandings, poor communication and not enough education about the project and the costs. The resolution language also included provisions stating that this project schedule is the most critical issue facing the businesses and their survival during an already difficult time, which means communication and cooperation is needed. It's not realistic to attempt construction of the water main in September, as requested by business owners, and it's not the DDA desire to pave the road in 2010, therefore, the construction would start in June 2009—for the water main and streetscape—and continue in the spring/summer of 2010 for South Street, side streets and any other items not completed in the first phase, according to the resolution.

"We hope the weather will cooperate and, in 2010 would be the final improvements for the streetscape," said Thompson.

The DDA also asked that business owners consider the schedule, partner with the development group and provide in writing their commitment.

Nine members of the Development Area Citizens Council, which includes Sheree Jones, Jessica McCrea, Brain McCasey, Maggie McCasey, James Hagelthorn, Kay Atkins, Toby Leis, Kelly Overend and Pat Price, were also appointed recently.

The council will advise the development authority on the upcoming development plan, which includes the projects and purposes of the DDA. Since the DDA is ready to expire and looking to re-bond, a new development plan must be done, according to Thompson.

"We're probably looking at going out another 20 years because the Main Street project would require another 20 years to pay back the bond, so the first step is the advice of the development authority and the council," she said.

"They all have different experiences throughout Belleville so their input is needed," she added. "We need residents who are a part of downtown. What they have to say is important."

Schools increase mileage rate

The Van Buren Public School District approved a rate increase recently for field trip mileage to cover the rise in gas prices.

According to Rhonda Lyons-Manning of the school transportation department, the current charge was $25 an hour plus 50 cents per mile for in-house sponsored trips and $30 an hour plus $1 per mile for non-district sponsored trips. The current rate doesn't recoup enough money to cover the actual cost for the fuel being used. The straight time hourly rate for a driver, including FICA and retirement is $21.29, with overtime at $29.85. The current fuel cost is $3.90 a gallon at 7 miles per gallon (for diesel).

Lyons-Manning said there are times where the actual cost of the trip ends up being absorbed by the transportation department due to the driver going onto an overtime rate while the trip is only charged the straight time rate. Most times, the transportation department pays the overtime rate on extra-curriculum field trips. This school year there was 339 extra curriculum field trips that traveled 18,756 miles. Athletic trips traveled 16,557 miles, she said

The board approved a flexible 'current cost per gallon' charge.

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CITY OF ROMULUS
PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given of a Public Hearing to be held Monday, July 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan to consider establishing an Industrial Development District pursuant to P.A. 198 of 1974, as amended, for **Distriplex Metro One LLC, 27501 Hildebrandt Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174.**

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Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485
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Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: July 3, 2008

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD JUNE 9, 2008 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, Clerk
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-173

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held June 2, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

3A. None.

08-174

4A1. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Steven Trasky.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Barden, supported by Wadsworth to accept the Chairpersons Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-175

5A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Tom Wilson, DPW Director to award bid 07/08-37, Two (2) Ton Trailer Mounted Hot Patcher for the Department of Public Works to the lowest qualified bidder, Bell Equipment Company in the amount of $25,000.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-176

5B. Motion by Crova, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Tom Wilson, DPW Director to award bid 07/08-38, Front Mounted Electric Winch for the Department of Public Works to the only bidder, W.W. Granger, in the amount of $1,411.20.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-177

5C. Motion by Barden, supported by Wadsworth to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Tom Wilson, DPW Director to award bid 07/08-39, Pole Mounted Digital Camera, for pipeline inspection for the Department of Public Works to the lowest qualified bidder, Jack Doheny Supplies, in the amount of $23,510.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-178

5D. Motion by Bragg, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Tom Wilson, DPW Director to award bid 07/08-40, thirty (30) Fiberglass Truck Tracks for the Department of Public Works to the lowest qualified bidder, GFI, Inc. in the amount of $4,140.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-179

5E. Motion by Barden, supported by Crova to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Tom Wilson, DPW Director to award bid 07/08-41, Portable Carpet Extractor for the Department of Public Works to the lowest bidder, Lower Huron Chemical in the amount of $1,589.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-180

6A1. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to schedule a Study Session to discuss the new LED Digital Sign proposed by the Downtown Development Authority for Monday, July 7, 2008 at 5:45 p.m., to be held in the City Council Chambers, located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-181

6A2. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendments 07/08-26 and 07/08-27, introduced at the Council Meeting held June 2, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

6A3. No Action Required.

08-182

11. Motion by Burcroff supported by Bragg to authorize the City Treasurer to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 08-11 in the grand total amount of Four Hundred Twenty Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred Seventy Four Dollars and Fifty Four Cents ($429,874.54).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Abstain - Crova.
Motion Carried.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

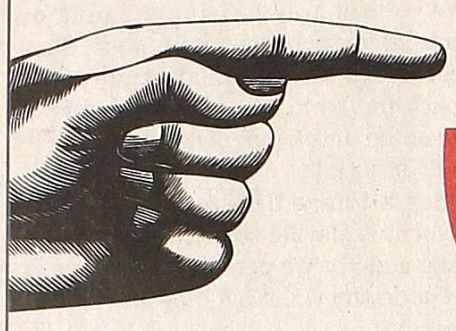
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda R Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on June 9, 2008.

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: July 3, 2008



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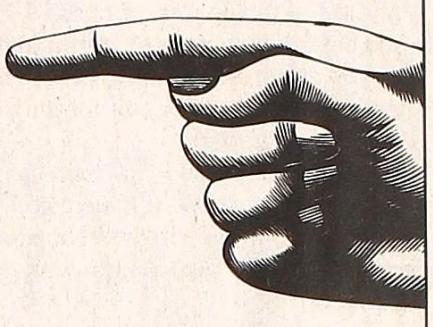

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